



**Media Statement – Update on Columbia Forest Long Term Care Home – Waterloo
- Dr. Rhonda Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Revera**

February 23, 2021

Region of Waterloo Public Health has confirmed that three residents of Columbia Forest Long Term Care Home in Waterloo have tested positive for COVID-19 since the outbreak began on December 31. Of these, all three resident cases have resolved.

Public Health also confirmed that 14 staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. All cases have resolved.

We are working closely with Region of Waterloo Public Health officials to maintain pandemic outbreak protocols and infection control practices. We are doing enhanced cleaning at Columbia Forest, frequently disinfecting high touch surfaces like handrails and doors, common areas and staff rooms.

All residents are monitored closely for symptoms twice daily and are tested if they present any potential signs or symptoms of the virus.

All staff are screened at the beginning and end of their shifts. All staff are required to wear an appropriate mask and eye protection while in the home.

All residents in the home have been asked to self-isolate in their rooms. Meals are served in resident rooms with supervision and assistance as required. To maintain stimulation and social engagement during this period of isolation, individual recreation activities continue.

We are regularly updating residents, their families and the staff on the status of the outbreak. At the direction of Public Health, visits are restricted to essential caregivers and essential visits for palliative residents.

All residents at Columbia Forest who consented to or were able to be vaccinated have now received their second dose. Staff vaccinations are on-going.

We recognize how difficult these measures are for residents and their families and we appreciate their patience and understanding as we put these precautions in place for the safety of our residents.

Revera continues to do everything we can to keep our residents and employees safe as we work to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at our long term care homes and retirement residences.